



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

Michael O. Leavitt
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June 9, 1999

TO: Lowell P. Braxton, Director

THRU: Mary Ann Wright, Associate Director *MAW*

THRU: Wayne Hedberg, Permit Supervisor *WH*

FROM: Anthony A. Gallegos, Senior Reclamation Specialist *aaG*

RE: Request for Release of Reclamation Surety for Completion of Reclamation, San Rafael Energy Inc., Four Corners Mine M/015/014 and Snow Mine M/015/013, Emery County, Utah

This request for release of reclamation surety is based on the Division policy last revised September 24, 1997 (copy attached). Mr. Gary Jacobson, of San Rafael Energy, Inc. had requested an inspection for release of these sites in response to the billing for permit fees. San Rafael Energy, Inc. last performed reclamation work at these sites in 1996. The Board of Oil, Gas and Mining approved of partial release of reclamation surety in September 1996 in recognition of the completion of the earthwork. A surety amount of \$2,000 was retained by the Division until revegetation at the reclaimed sites could be considered successful.

On October 9, 1998 Division staff performed a site inspection of the Snow Mine. The inspection concluded that the shaft closures are intact and revegetation success is fair given the minimal amounts of topsoil available for reclamation. On January 21, 1999 Division and BLM staff performed a site inspection of the Four Corners Mine. The area where the buildings had been removed was stable with fair revegetation success. The mine portal closure was intact with good revegetation success relative to the natural vegetative cover in the area. Copies of the two inspection memos are attached for your information.

In a June 7, 1999 telephone conversation Dean Nyffeler of the Price BLM Field Office informed the Division that BLM was in agreement with the final release of the reclamation surety being held for the Snow and Four Corners Mines. These sites were permitted by the Division prior to the BLM's regulations, therefore, the BLM has no formal case files for these two projects. They cannot grant written permission to release operations which they have no filings for. They have given verbal agreement to release these sites.

If you are in agreement with the final release of this reclamation surety, please sign the enclosed release letter to the operator. If you are not in agreement please inform me of the next steps to be taken in response to this release request.

jb

Enclosure: final release letter

Attachments: Division Surety Release Policy, two inspection memos
m15-14.rel



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December 17, 1998

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Tony Gallegos, Reclamation Engineer *adg*

RE: Site Inspection, San Rafael Energy, Inc., Snow Mine, M/015/013, Emery County, Utah

Date of Inspection: October 9, 1998
Time of Inspection: 1144 - 1230
Conditions: Sunny, warm, clear skies and gnats
Participants: Tony Gallegos, DOGM

Purpose of Inspection: To examine the reclaimed mine site and shaft closures in consideration of reclamation release

A GPS unit was used to take a location point on the mound over what was believed to be the main shaft location. The uncorrected location of this point in latitude and longitude was north 38° 58' 20.83" west 110° 21' 32.84". This GPS point was labeled as "snow" in rover file number R100917A. **The corrected GPS location in UTM coordinates is East 555,611.02562 North 4,313,625.71374.**

The shaft closure at the site appears to be stable and shows no signs of settling at this time. The waste dump slopes at the site have been regraded on all sides. This regrading blends the dumps in with the adjacent topographic features. Photographs of this area show a waste dump with the state vehicle parked on it. Additional photos showing the east side of this dump show several tamarisk near the dumps. The tamarisk may be present here due to the diversion or collection of surface runoff along this edge of the dumps. There are some minor amounts of wood and black plastic pipe debris in a few locations of the regraded areas on the northeast end of the site. There are minor rills forming on some of the slopes of the waste rock dumps.

There are two sets of power lines which end at the site. A marker on one of the power poles included PacificCorp 114-21-14# 229300. It is likely that removal of these power lines is the responsibility of PacificCorp and not the mine operator.

One photo was taken looking to the south over the tops of some dumps showing the vegetative success. There is minimal vegetation on the waste rock dumps. The majority of this minimal vegetation is halogeton. There are some small colonies of desirable plants located where soils were present and where water collects. These plant colonies are typically in low lying areas between dump features. The topography around these colonies directs surface runoff to the plants.

Page 2
Site Inspection
M/015/013
December 17, 1998

The next area examined was the air shaft located to the west of the main shaft area. This backfilled shaft is now visible as a mound of dirt. The shaft backfill shows no signs of instability at this time. The photograph of this site includes the state vehicle on the left and a standing wood post in line with the backfill.

In conclusion, from a safety standpoint, the shaft closures are intact. Vegetation success at the site is poor with small areas of fair vegetation success in the eastern half of the site. Some regraded slopes show minor signs of erosion rilling. A letter addressing reclamation release will need to be sent to the operator after consulting the BLM and reviewing Division files.

jb
cc: Gary Jacobson, San Rafael Energy
Dean Nyffeler, BLM Price FO
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